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TITLE: The Connection Between the NMCWM and the USAMRMC - How the Early Development of Military Medicine During the American Civil War Paved the Way for the Research and Development of New and Improved Methods/Battlefield Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

An educational partnership between the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM), the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) and Fort Detrick, MD was formed in 1997 to provide the opportunity for both institutions to share technology, history and artifacts through displays, lectures, and other learning opportunities. According to the formal agreement, the relationship "is established in recognition of the importance of Education to Military Medicine, and to encourage and enhance the understanding of scientific disciplines and application of science and technology as it relates to military medicine."

In keeping with the guidelines of the agreement, the NMCWM opened a new exhibit on May 7, 2004. This exhibit, a joint effort between the NMCWM and the USAMRMC, emphasizes the significant progress that occurred in the medical field during the Civil War, and how that progress has contributed to modern medical practices both in the military and civilian sectors. This exhibit is just one more example of the relationship between the NMCWM and the USAMRMC, and the desire of both organizations to continue this valuable partnership. The latest collaboration between these institutions, an exhibit entitled "Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century," formally opened to the public on May 7, 2004.

BODY

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) is the premiere repository of exhibits and artifacts devoted to the technological and procedural advances made between 1861 and 1865. These changes occurred in the midst of tremendous social and economic upheaval. The Museum is committed to effectively weaving the narrative of suffering soldiers, caregivers, their families and the dramatic and innovative changes in medical treatment. The Museum utilizes its collection to heighten public awareness of the modern medical practices that had their roots on the battlefields and in the hospitals of this once divided country. Interactive educational programs, exhibits, seminars and lectures provide the knowledge that Civil War medicine connects us not only to our past, but is the technological link to our present and our future. The partnership formed between the NMCWM, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) and Fort Detrick allows both organizations to favorably impact each other, and the Frederick community as well.

The field of Civil War medicine has been overlooked for many years due to the misconception that medical practices were essentially non-existent and detrimental to the wounded soldiers. However, if time is taken to examine the many procedures, instruments and medications commonplace in our world today, it is possible to discover their direct links to the past. Any war produces new technology—both on and off the battlefield. There is no more desperate a battleground than a field hospital behind the lines, where necessity does truly become the mother of invention. New techniques for medical treatment, development of new instruments, and new uses of medications all contribute to project advances in medical treatment by quantum leaps into everyday life. All of us have benefited from the sacrifices made by the soldiers and the dedication of the caregivers.

The implementation of the triage system was developed by Dr. Jonathan Letterman during the Civil War, as was the beginnings of an Ambulance Corps to transport wounded men from the battlefield. These innovations benefit military and civilian personnel on a daily basis. This exhibit, through a media presentation and exhibit of various medical applications that allow present-day military personnel to take preventive measures against chemical and biological agents. Also displayed are the Personal Information Carrier (PIC) and the Battlefield Medical Information System – Telemedicine (BMIS-T) that are able to record demographic and medical information for individual soldiers, as well as the essential elements of individual medical history, thereby insuring rapid and effective treatment. A noteworthy aspect of the exhibit is a timeline that presents the medical advances made in each decade from the 1840's to the present day. This timeline effectively demonstrates significant milestones in medical technology. This technology has benefited not only those in military service, but the civilian sector as well.

Two pedestals in the exhibit display the numerous medical advances developed at USAMRMC. A full-size mannequin dressed in full medic/battle gear brings home the dual role of the field medic. The medics not only bear the responsibility of caring for wounded comrades, but they are also a trained member of the military. This is a reminder that Civil War surgeons faced the same dangers on the battlefield as their modern-day counterparts. They often fought alongside those under their care.

The USAMRMC/Fort Detrick and the NMCWM's primary goal in creating an exhibit is to use conventional display techniques and media technology to design a display that emphasizes the connection between the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and the NMCWM. The exhibit shows how the early development of military medicine during the Civil War paved the way for the research and development of new and improved methods for delivering medical care to the battlefield and to the homeland. The exhibit also underscores the many contributions the USAMRMC has made to medical care through innovative techniques for delivering timely and appropriate medical care on the frontlines of battle around the world. The display explains how the activities of the USAMRMC provide an important part of providing new technology and methods to the military and private sector medical community. The exhibit highlights the operations of Fort Detrick and their tremendous impact on modern military medicine, and how the National Museum of Civil War Medicine is an important part of providing a historical perspective on military medicine.

Implementation of proposal

The initial proposal was submitted by AVW-TELAV Audio Visual Solutions. The NMCWM retains its own design firm, Kund & Associates, which is familiar with our needs and mission. Therefore, Kund & Associates was given the contract to design the exhibits, while AVW-TELAV was responsible for the audio/video aspects of the display. The design stresses the relationship between the NMCWM and the USAMRMC. The text is kept to a minimum and serves only to provide an overview of the area so that the relationship between the institutions will be the focal point of the display. A "flat screen" monitor is in the center of the exhibit, and presents a short video that, according to the proposal, "touches on the various areas of research at the command and speaks to the progressive and aggressive nature of the research and development of new medical applications and technology." A proximity sensor activates the video program whenever it senses the presence of a visitor, thereby ensuring that the program is ready whenever there is an audience.

It is the hope of the NMCWM that this exhibit will be updated periodically with new photos, technology, and fresh video presentations that keep pace with the many advances made by the MRMC. A budget of \$51,698.09 (financial report is included with this report) was proposed to cover the implementation of the project. Any funds remaining after the completion of the exhibit are designated for maintenance of the display.

Numerous meetings and electronic communications were required to finalize the implementation of the exhibit. If further information is required, please contact the project leader.

CONCLUSIONS

The exhibit: "Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century," now on display at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, is a perfect example of the continuing educational partnership between the Museum and the USARMRMC. This exhibit expands educational opportunities for the military and the general public. The exhibit adheres to the mission of the NMCWM to capitalize on existing partnerships with community organizations and institutions that share similar goals. The partnership allows both institutions to develop exhibits that will engage diverse audiences.

The exhibit, located on the first floor of the museum will be viewed by approximately 30,000 visitors each year.

From the perspective of both the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, this exhibit is a valuable tool in educating the public. Both institutions seek to provide the knowledge that Civil War medicine connects us not only to our past, but is the technological link to our present and our future. "Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century" is an important link in the chain of education.

Key personnel receiving pay from the research effort:

George C. Wunderlich, Executive Director
Karen Thomassen, Deputy Director
Kari E. Turner, Director of Education
Ryan Rokicki, Curator
Terry Reimer, Director of Research
Ann Lee, Museum Store/Visitor Services Manager
Janet L. Bucklew, Development Officer
Debby Moone, Development Officer

All other personnel receiving pay were designated as contractors and sub-contractors for the exhibit, and are listed in the financial report.



“Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century”



The exhibit is officially open. NMCWM executive director George C. Wunderlich and Major Michael Blount hold the ceremonial ribbon as Col. John Ball and NMCWM board president Robert E. Gearing declare the exhibit open.



Dignitaries at the NMCWM/Fort Detrick exhibit opening included:
Back Row, l-r: George Wunderlich, NMCWM executive director; Jim Olson, NMCWM board member; and Major Michael Blount, Fort Detrick liaison.
Front Row, l-r: Commissioner Mike Cady; Senator David Brinkley; Col. John Ball, Garrison Commander, Fort Detrick; Mayor Jennifer Dougherty; Commissioner Jan Gardner; and Robert E. Gearing, NMCWM board president.

SENATE OF MARYLAND



Resolution

Be it hereby known to all that
The Senate of Maryland
offers its sincerest congratulations to
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
in recognition of

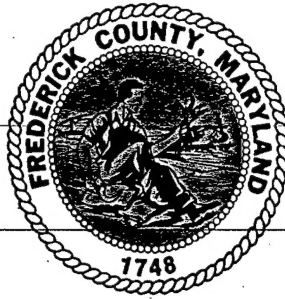
*the ongoing partnership between the National Museum of
Civil War Medicine, the U. S. Army Medical Research and
Material Command, and Fort Detrick. Congratulations on
the unveiling of the newest exhibit, "Building on the Past:
Military Medicine for the 21st Century".*

The entire membership extends best wishes on
this memorable occasion and directs this resolution
be presented on this 7th day of May 2004.



James V. [Signature]
President of the Senate

Senator Alex Mooney
Sponsor



Certificate of Recognition


is presented to


*National Museum of Civil War Medicine,
U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command,
and Fort Detrick*


*Congratulations on your new exhibit -
"Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century!"*


*We join with you in looking forward to a
successful and education exhibit!*

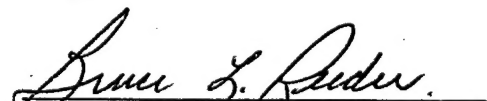
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND


John L. Thompson, Jr., President

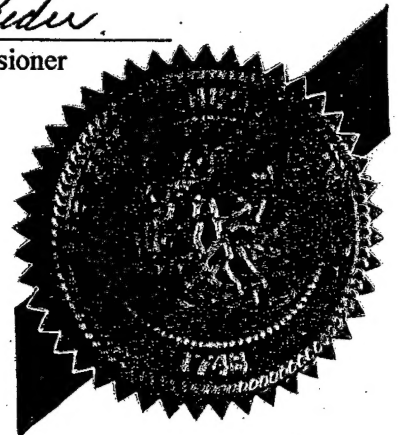

Michael L. Cady, Vice President


John R. Lovett, Jr., Commissioner


Jan H. Gardner, Commissioner


Bruce L. Reeder, Commissioner

Presented this 7th day of May 2004.



Museum schedules new exhibit

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 E. Patrick St., Frederick, will hold an exhibit opening on Friday, May 7, at 10 a.m.

The new permanent exhibit is on modern battlefield medicine and its ties to the advancements made during the Civil War. The project was made possible through grants from an ongoing partnership between the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Frederick.

The exhibit was designed and fabricated by Dennis Kund, Kund & Associates, Lusby.

The display includes a short video and informational panels on modern battlefield medicine and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, a time-line of major medicine advances from 1840-2000, examples of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals used by the Army today and a museum-quality mannequin equipped as a field medic.



New exhibit

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, located in downtown Frederick, recently held a ribbon cutting for a new exhibit on modern battlefield medicine and its ties to the advancements made during the Civil War. The exhibit includes a short video and informational panels on modern battlefield medicine, a timeline of major medical advances from 1840-2000, examples of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals used by the Army today, and a museum-quality mannequin equipped as a field medic. The display shows how medical developments made during the Civil War paved the way for the advancements in research and development which brought improved methods of delivering medical care to today's soldiers. Pictured, from left, are Mayor Jennifer Dougherty; Maj. Michael Blount, Fort Detrick liaison; Robert E. Gearinger, NMCWM board president; Col. John Ball, Garrison Commander, Fort Detrick; George Wunderlich, NMCWM executive director; and Sen. David Brinkley.

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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/bal-li.tripcal13may13,0.6730886.story>

Trips

Calendar listings

May 13, 2004

Trips

MARYLAND

"Building on the Past: Military Medicine for the 21st Century," Frederick. This permanent exhibit at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 E. Patrick St., shows how medical developments made during the Civil War paved the way for improved methods of delivering medical care to today's soldiers. Exhibit highlights the operations at Fort Detrick and its impact on modern military medicine. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. \$4.50-\$6.50. Call 301-695-1864.

"Moovin' the Big Log," Sykesville. Oxen and their drovers will demonstrate the power and ability of working cattle 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday at Piney Run Park and Nature Center, 30 Martz Road. Drovers in costume will handle the highlight of this event, moving a 19-foot white pine log, which will become the center's new dugout canoe. Event is free but regular park admission fees apply. Call 410-795-6043.

D.C.

"The Artistry of African Currency" This permanent exhibit at the IMF Center, 720 19th St. N.W., shows handcrafted metal currencies from highly valued, complex designs to more conventional forms, and a series of panels combining text, photographs and real objects used as currency. Hours are 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Admission fee. Call 202-623-6869.

"Battlefield Surgery 101: From the Civil War to Vietnam." Exhibit highlights the evolution of military surgical activities over the past 140 years through a selection of photographs and 19th- and 20th-century artifacts. Running indefinitely at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, 6900 Georgia Ave. N.W. Hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily. Free. Call 202-782-2200.